

ABSTRACT

An electronic variable stroke device comprise a base portion containing a motor-driven screw shaft, an upper portion extending from the base portion having the screw shaft extending longitudinally therein, a traveler engaged with the screw shaft to drive a part of the upper body in reciprocating longitudinal motion, and electronic controls include a transmitter/receiver for sending and receiving control signals for operating the device. A remote controller unit is provided for ergonomic operation of the device by the user. A network connection unit is provided to connect the user's device to an external service offered on the Internet or other networks, and includes controls for transmitting audio/visual content in conjunction with operation of the device. The device may be adapted as a female toy, and can exchange control signals with one or more other users operating a male toy or other electronic stimulation device. The Internet service can join a user in an interactive session with another user, or with a group of users, and even non-participating spectators. The Internet service preferably has a 3-tier structure of administrator site, host site, and affiliated play host site for efficiently handling verification of user identity and payment method, widespread offerings of user interest communities and interactive services, and distribution of revenues from customer usage to service partners. Purchasers of a network connection unit can be required to register with a warranty/registration site, to which the administrator site has access to validate a user's identity and payment method. Other applications for the Internet-based system for multi-user interactive sessions include remote game-playing and virtual videoconferencing.